

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 4 and 9.

Attachment: Replacement sheets (2)

Additionally, reference numeral 20 is described in the specification as illustrating a steel corner plate. Applicant respectfully submits that the figures appropriately illustrate a steel corner plate 20. Accordingly, Applicant requests that this objection to the drawing be withdrawn.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 16 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,577,353 to Simpson ("Simpson"). The Examiner states that Simpson discloses each and every limitation of Applicant's claimed invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 has been canceled and claim 20 has been withdrawn. Moreover, claim 19 has been amended to depend from claim 24 which includes allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner and is also therefore allowable. Accordingly, as this rejection is now moot, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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